

Washington, DC — Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) toured the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology (P.I.T.) with its President, John C. Strayer. — “Delaware County began with agriculture, but its greatest growth was due to manufacturing and artisan skills. They are what made Delaware County great and what this school is about. Even today, the artisan skills require higher levels of science and math as manufacturing becomes more sophisticated and high-tech. I personally learned the value of technical skills during my first job as a fire marshal in the Navy, overseeing welders, mechanics, and electricians.” said Congressman Sestak, “In the past three years, my District has lost 607 small businesses, and one out of five manufacturing establishments. I am committed to reversing this trend through supporting educational institutions such as this, fostering entrepreneurial development and creating the right set of conditions to help businesses flourish. Supporting effective small business entrepreneurial development programs is a key part of that strategy and that is why I asked to be on the Small Business Committee.”

As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman Sestak has championed an early education agenda that focuses on giving our youth the tools to succeed in life, including support for crucial programs such as Head Start and Healthy Start. He has held three education summits to provide an opportunity for education stakeholders in the 7th Congressional district to discuss key educational issues with policy makers and education experts. The summits have covered Head Start, the No Child Left Behind Law, and higher education.

Congressman Sestak has also recently held two Economic Summits to assist businesses in the district to address the issues of jobs, businesses, and a highly trained workforce. The first Economic Development Summit brought together several hundred stakeholders from across the District to participate in discussions to address the key issues facing workforce development, access to capital, business development and growth, community economic development, and economic development strategies. The second summit focused on encouraging economic development by connecting local businesses with federal, state, and local resources and programs.

“Trade impact that trade and vocational schools have played a major role in the development of America, senior Chinese leaders have said that what they most admire are not Yale or Harvard universities, but the trade, technical, and community colleges that produced the tradesmen and artisans that made America a great manufacturing power,” the Congressman added, “It is places P.I.T. that provide the workforce to retain and attract new high-value industries. And P.I.T. does more than train workers; it teaches its students the values of character, honor and integrity. It is as the Greeks said, ‘it is the use of all your faculties to attain excellence that is

truly the enjoyment of life,' and there is great enjoyment at P.I.T. because they teach you to use all your qualities to attain excellence."

P.I.T. is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. It also is approved as a two-year College by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and is the only two year, independent College in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that offers Associate's Degrees and certificate programs in Engineering Technology, Information Technology, Allied Health Technology, and Business Administration.

The mission of the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology is to provide the best collegiate career-enhancing education, personal growth experience and four-year college transfer opportunities to committed learners.

P.I.T.'s commitment to a "student success" philosophy begins with a student's first contact and accompanies them throughout their entire experience. Emphasis is placed on:

- Hands-on training in real world applications
- Maximizing job placement rate for eligible candidates
- Providing support services necessary to assist all students to succeed

Since 1974, P.I.T. has placed 94% of its degree graduates in positions related to their education. Degree and certificate programs at P.I.T. are recognized, supported, and developed with the help and advice of business, industry, and workforce development agencies throughout the Delaware Valley. P.I.T. offers students nine Associate's Degree programs and a number of certificate programs in Engineering Technology, Information Technology, Allied Health Technology, and Business Administration. All programs at P.I.T. are focused on the practical application of technology that employers desire and need in today's competitive job market.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.